

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 6, 8, 11-13,15, and 17 are pending.

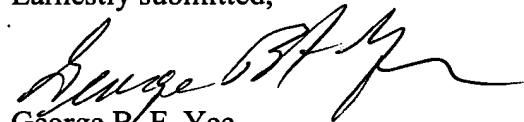
In a telephone conversation with the examiner held on August 3, 2006, counsel authorized the amendment set forth in the Notice of Allowance mailed August 29, 2006. However, counsel had not consulted with Applicant and later learned that Applicant desired additional language to more clearly point out the invention.

Claim 6 was amended by examiner's amendment to include the word "directly" on line 11, after the word "to." This is reflected in claim 6 above using italicized letters.

Applicants propose to append clarifying language to claim 6 in order to more clearly point out that the second connection unit provides a direct connection between any of the file servers and any of the disk drive units that is absent any of the disk controllers. The proposed additional language does not change the scope of the claims, requires no substantial amount of work on the part of the Office, and does not touch the merits.

Consideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Earnestly submitted,



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